GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3054
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2007
QUALITY OF EDUCATION
Yaskhi Shri Madhu Goud

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of efforts made by the Government to improve the quality of education and health of students;

(b) whether the Government has initiated any steps to increase in the enrollment of children at the elementary level;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of children covered under mid-day meal scheme during the last three years, gender-wise, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a) to (c): Issues of quality have always been central to educational policy. It has been the Government`s endeavour to ensure continuous and sustained improvement in the quality of education at all levels. The NPE provides for a National System of Education, which implies that up to a given level, all students, irrespective of caste, creed, location or sex, have access to education of a comparable quality. It also accords priority for improvement of the standard of education at all levels.

The concerns regarding quality and equity are continuously addressed by the Central and State Governments through appropriate interventions in education at all levels. Such interventions include infrastructure development, supply of teaching - learning material, periodic revision of the curricula, introduction of subjects in new and emerging areas, value education, teachers` training and deployment, reforms in the examination system, separate schools and hostels for girls, exemption of tuition and other fees, incentives such as free textbooks, stationery, uniforms, scholarships, free studentships for poor and meritorious students, reservation in admission etc. in appropriate cases.

The Scheme of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) has been evolved to provide useful and relevant elementary education for all children in the 6 to 14 age group by 2010. It is a response to the demand for quality basic education all over the country. The Mid-day Meal Scheme, launched to support Universalisation of Primary Education, impacts upon enrolment, attendance and retention and the nutritional needs of children studying in classes I to V.

(d): A statement giving the number of students covered under Mid-Day Meal Scheme during the last three years, State- wise, is given at Annexure. This information is not collected gender-wise.